

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2019

Dear Commissioner Manfred,

We are writing to express our firm opposition to Major League Baseball's radical proposal to eliminate numerous Minor League Baseball clubs. If enacted, it would undermine the health of the minor league system that undergirds talent development and encourages fan loyalty. It would particularly be felt in areas far from a major league team or where tickets to a major league game are cost-prohibitive.

Tens of millions of fans attend Minor League Baseball games each season. These professional baseball clubs are vital components of our communities because they provide affordable, family-friendly entertainment to members of our communities, support scores of allied businesses, employ thousands of individuals, donate millions of dollars in charitable funds, and connect our communities to Major League Baseball. A number of these Minor League clubs operate at a loss but continue to persist due to strong fan support and club ownerships' commitment to their communities and America's Pastime.

The abandonment of Minor League clubs by Major League Baseball would devastate our communities, their bond purchasers, and other stakeholders affected by the potential loss of these clubs. We want you to fully understand the impact this could have not only on the communities we represent, but also on the long-term support that Congress has always afforded our national pastime on a wide variety of legislative initiatives.

For over a century, Congress has taken numerous actions specifically designed to protect, preserve, and sustain a system and structure for both Major and Minor League Baseball to flourish.

You are the most important steward of the great game of baseball and tasked with ensuring the popularity and love of it across the world. Reducing the number of Minor League Baseball clubs and overhauling a century-old system that has been consistently safeguarded by Congress is not in the best interest of the overall game of baseball, especially when Major League Baseball's revenues are at all-time highs.

As members of Congress who recognize the tremendous value of the Minor League system, we ask Major League Baseball to strongly reconsider its proposed course with Minor League Baseball and do all that it can to ensure the continuation of affiliated baseball in our communities.

Sincerely,



Lori Trahan



David B. McKinley


Mark Pocan


Elise Stefanik



David Trone


Rob Bishop


Tim Ryan


David P. Roe, M.D.


Max Rose


Scott R. Tipton


David Loebsack


Denver Riggleman



Joe Courtney


John Moolenaar


Jamie Raskin

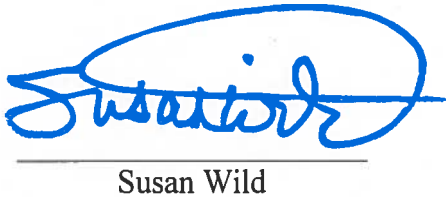

Andy Barr

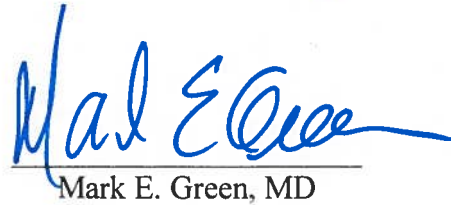

William R. Keating


Chris Stewart


Deb Haaland


Mike Simpson


Susan Wild


Mark E. Green, MD


Joseph Morelle


Brian Fitzpatrick


Cindy Axne

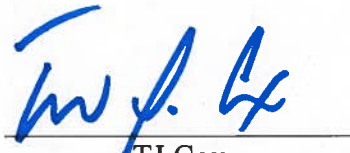

Michael R. Turner


Marcy Kaptur


Glenn "GT" Thompson



Joe Cunningham


David Kustoff


TJ Cox



Jim Banks


Veronica Escobar


Steve Womack


Peter A. DeFazio

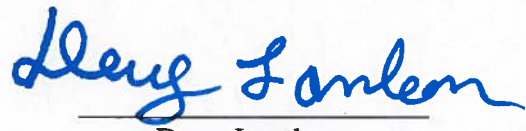

Chuck Fleischmann


Chrissy Houlahan



Fred Keller



Lauren Underwood



Doug Lamborn



Brian Higgins



H. Morgan Griffith



Elissa Slotkin



Tim Burchett



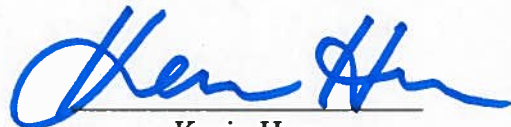
Sean Patrick Maloney



Mike D. Rogers



Joseph P. Kennedy, III



Kevin Hern



Suzan DelBene



John Katko



Ann McLane Kuster


Rick Crawford


Peter Welch


Mark Amodei



Anthony Brindisi


Mark Walker


Chris Pappas


Brett Guthrie


David Price


Carol D. Miller


John Yarmuth


Robert Aderholt

Kathleen H. Rice

Kathleen M. Rice



Tom Reed

Joyce Beatty

Joyce Beatty

Robert J. Wittman

Robert J. Wittman

Andy Levin

Andy Levin

Mike Kelly

Mike Kelly

Doris Matsui

Doris Matsui

French Hill

French Hill

Abby Finkenauer

Abby Finkenauer

Greg Gianforte

Greg Gianforte

John Garamendi

John Garamendi

David Joyce

David Joyce




Lloyd Doggett



Markwayne Mullin



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.



Ted Budd



Steven Horsford



William R. Timmons IV



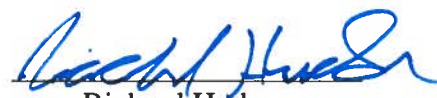
Kurt Schrader



Christopher H. Smith



Jimmy Panetta



Richard Hudson



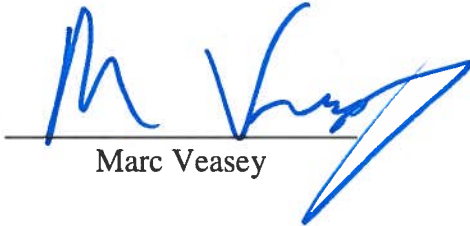
David N. Cicilline



Michael Waltz


Jose Serrano


Ken Calvert


Marc Veasey


Brad R. Wenstrup

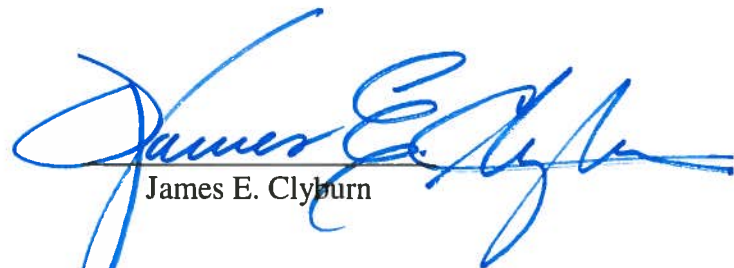

Dina Titus


Marcia L. Fudge

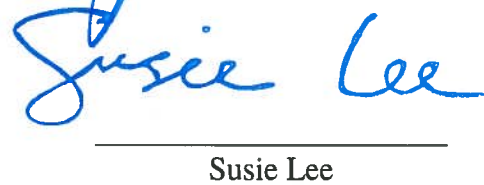

Lisa Blunt Rochester


C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger


Suzanne Bonamici


James E. Clyburn


Antonio Delgado


Susie Lee


Jerry McNerney


Terri Sewell


Betty McCollum


Paul D. Tonko


Chellie Pingree

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Anthony G. Brown

CC:

Ken Kendrick	Managing General Partner	Arizona Diamondbacks
Terry McQuirk	Chairman	Atlanta Braves
Peter Angelos	Chairman of the Board/CEO	Baltimore Orioles
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Dan Halem	Deputy Commissioner, Baseball Administration & CLO	
Morgan Sword	SVP, League Economics & Operations	
Reed MacPhail	VP, League Economics & Operations	